

Message Text

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TOSEC 359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, OVIP KISSINGER, HENRY A.

SUBJECT: MBFR: STATUS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS, JUNE 28 -

JULY 4, 1974

1. FOLLOWING IS THE WEEKLY STATUS REPORT ON THE MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ASSURANCE ABOUT WESTERN REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. ON
JULY 3, THE NAC AUTHORIZED THE AD HOC GROUP TO TELL THE
EAST IN VIENNA THAT ALL NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS
IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS (EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG) WOULD BE
PREPARED TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN PHASE II.

3. ALLIES CONSIDER DISCUSSING DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES
WITH EAST. PROMPTED IN PART BY EASTERN CHARGES THAT THE
ALLIED DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES HAS ARTIFICIALLY
ENLARGED THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN THE FORCES OF THE TWO
SIDES, THE AD HOC GROUP ON JULY 3 REQUESTED NAC GUIDANCE
BY SEPTEMBER 16, WHICH WOULD PERMIT A DISCUSSION OF THE
PROBLEM OF DEFINING GROUND FORCES WITH THE EAST EARLY IN
THE AUTUMN ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE AHG INDICATED THAT
IT INTENDED TO CONVEY TO THE EAST BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK

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ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO SEARCH FOR A COMMON DEFINITION OF

GROUND FORCES DURING THE NEXT ROUND.

4. EASTERN SPOKESMEN HAVE ARGUED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE WESTERN APPROACH TO FORCE CATEGORIZATION, BASED PRIMARILY ON THE "UNIFORM" OF EACH SEGMENT, MEANT THAT UNITS HAVING THE SAME FUNCTIONS HAD BEEN COUNTED AS AIR ELEMENTS IN THE FORCES OF SOME PARTICIPANTS AND GROUND FORCES IN OTHERS. THE AD HOC GROUP HAS FORWARDED TO THE NAC AN ANALYSIS WHICH POINTS OUT THREE INSTANCES TO WHICH EASTERN CRITICISM HAS BEEN DIRECTED AND POSES SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR NAC DECISION. RECTIFICATION OF THESE "ANOMALIES" WOULD REDUCE SOMEWHAT THE DISPARITIES IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER.

5. INFORMAL SESSION OF JULY 2, 1974. BOTH SIDES STAYED ON FAMILIAR GROUND IN THE LATEST INFORMAL SESSION BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA. THE ALLIES ARGUED THAT THE BEST CHANCE FOR PROGRESS WAS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE AGREED TOPIC OF WHOSE FORCES WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THEIR PROPOSAL FOR FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS BY US AND SOVIET FORCES, TOGETHER WITH A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT BY THE OTHER ALLIES PENDING PHASE II, CONSTITUTED MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS OF THE TWO SIDES.

6. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE A FIRST STEP OF REDUCTIONS UNCONNECTED WITH THE BASIC POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. SISCO

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